

CLEVER CRITICISM.

A FRENCHWOMAN'S IDEAS ABOUT HER AMERICAN SISTERS' DRESS.

She Says Our Women Have Especial Natural Advantages, but They Do Not Make Proper Use of Them—Waists and Corsets—A Little Return Criticism.

"On the deck of La Touraine, outward bound," says a woman who was there, "a clever little Frenchwoman criticised fairly the dressing of her American sisters and gave some excellent hints as to the correcting of their mistakes.

"When an American woman is well dressed," she said, "she is perfection, but few understand the art. She is exceedingly quick in copying new ideas, most ingenious in making over gowns and is beginning to dress appropriately, but there are certain essential points of good dressing to which she gives little attention. For instance, most of your women have excellent figures, the effect of which is marred by unnecessary or badly fitting corsets. There never was a more ridiculous advertisement than that which states that a corset can be 'perfect fitting' to all when the types of figures are so diverse. Many short waisted women, seeing a corset marked 'long waisted,' will fancy that by its adjustment the line from under the arm to the hip will be lengthened, and that they will resemble the graceful dummy on which the stay is exhibited. The mistake is discovered when, after many pains, the long corset is fastened around the resisting body and cushions of misplaced flesh rise about the edges. Let such a woman, realizing that she is short waisted, obtain an appropriate stay, and her appearance will be much improved, her comfort certainly increased.

"All women who buy ready made stays should indicate the length under the arm to the waist line as well as the circumference of the waist. It is usually a mistake for Americans to buy ready made French corsets, for the national types of figures are very different. A typical American figure in a typical French corset is often a cruel misfit. Many American women are too large below the waist line for perfect proportion, and that lack of symmetry is often accentuated by a tight bodice and too much drapery on the skirt. Such a figure would better wear no corsets, but use a broad abdominal supporter about the hips to keep in place the superfluous flesh and a linen waist to give firm support to the bust. For the majority of American figures no corset is necessary.

"Another mistake is made by your women when they fail to realize that there are as many kinds of complexions as figures, and that no advertised cosmetic can be good for all faces. They will purchase skin creams and rub their faces diligently night after night, with varying results. If it happens to suit the complexion of one woman, that is no assurance that her sister will be benefited by its use. Few realize that the secret of face care is to treat each feature separately. Rarely is the skin on nose and cheek of the same quality, and consequently what is healing for one may injure the other. If skin be of good quality on all the face, with the exception of the nose, and the latter secretes too much oil, a bath with a soft sponge dipped in borax water will keep the nose in better condition, while the rest of the face would be dried and injured by borax. The wrinkles about the eyes may be successfully treated with cocoa butter, while for the other features that treatment might be harmful. Every woman may try for herself the action of harmless cosmetics, but they should be used sparingly.

"What hideous fashions you have of cutting and dressing your hair! Don't, I beg of you, if you wish well dressed, neat looking heads, cut the hair short all about the face. It is hopeless material to work with in that condition and impossible to arrange in the graceful waves now in vogue. I wish that I might show you the hair curling, or 'ondulating,' which Parisian hairdressers have perfected. They have so closely copied the natural hair wave that it is difficult to tell whether it has been waved by nature or by the curling irons.

"Both Hading's and De Marcy's hairdressings are excellent illustrations of that arrangement. With care the waves last 15 days, and an American hairdresser, having learned the process, could make a fortune by introducing it into New York. The hair is as smooth as satin after the process, and an added gloss is given by passing lightly over the waves the softest of brushes on which a few drops of pure oil have been rubbed.

"Given," she summed up, "an American woman, with a trim figure, a healthy skin and a well arranged head, more than half her attempt to be well dressed is successful."

"Upon reaching Paris we observed the justice of the foregoing criticism, for the trim figures (rarely laced) and well arranged heads of the Frenchwomen were admirable, and we were very proud of our hair after it had been 'onduled.' However, if I ever meet that little critic again, I will suggest that her countrywomen in winter should wear thicker foot coverings than slippers or low shoes in the streets, and that they might occasionally wear a rubber waterproof when it rains. I will also ask why they wear skirts below their knees when they hold them so very high while walking, and I did not approve of tight knickerbockers and short waists for the women bicyclists. But I saw many things to admire in other directions and feel a great debt of gratitude toward the nimble French fingers which fashion so daintily our prettiest trifles."—Exchange.

The Boston Woman.

In Boston woman is valued socially in proportion to what she knows and can do well, or, to put it correctly, what she has the reputation of knowing and doing well. If it could be a pleasant thing anywhere for a woman to grow old, it would be so in Boston. In that city spinsters and widows, if they are ambitious and even tolerably healthy, never consider it too late to find a vocation. They would take up botany, china painting, sloyd or political economy at 60 with a refreshing independence of their age. I have seen a pupil of 70 at one of the prominent schools of oratory, her fellow students, mostly in her teens, treating her with a beautiful comradeship, instead of staring at her with suppressed smiles as if she were a kind of "freak." They recognized only her plucky defiance of Father Time's limitations by a larger measure of applause when she recited her pieces than they usually accorded to the younger members of the class. A Boston man forgives and may even forget a woman's advancing years if she is bright and interesting and can make him feel always that he knows more than she does.—Miss F. D. Doughty in Forum.

Shopping For Essentials.

Two women were shopping. One had a pile of goods on the counter which the clerk was checking off, and when he had finished he told her the bill was \$7.50. She produced a modest little purse, paid the amount, left her address and walked out of the store.

The other woman had been watching her with a good bit of interest. When she was gone, she turned to the clerk and said: "I don't understand it. That woman got so much more for her money than I did for mine. Here I have a small package that I can hold in one hand, and it cost \$7. One of us does not know how to shop evidently."

"She bought staple goods," remarked the clerk indifferently.

"But what are staple goods?"

"Oh, domestics, sheetings, towelings, children's warm knitted garments, hosiery and such! You see, she buys for a family and purchases only the essentials."

"Oh, and I buy for myself! I see." And the woman who had paid \$7 for a lace flounce went away with a new idea in her head.—Exchange.

As to Showing Off Pretty Feet.

Feet remain forever young looking, as a rule, and a woman of 60 may have as dainty a looking foot as a girl of 20. "Muffle up at the throat and shorten at the ankle" is, they say, one of Mme. Recamier's maxims for aging beauties, for while the feet are still youthfully pretty the throat is apt to show unmistakable signs of the ravages of time. The fashion of the high stocks of velvet or satin showing no line of white about the throat is immensely trying to women who are past their prime, for they accentuate every wrinkle of the throat and "show off" its fading color and shrinking skin. There are few girls even in the twenties who have throats sufficiently fresh, full and rosy to bear the test of rich dark material unrelieved by white. On the other hand, the women past middle age with a pretty foot shown to advantage may continue to hold her own among the younger belles of the day.—New York Journal.

The Handglass.

The seemingly helpful handglass has done more harm to beauty than any article belonging to the toilet table. The young girl knows nothing about freckles until somebody makes her a present of a hand mirror. One blemish reveals another.

er, ignorance magnifies the defects, and then unhappiness begins. Quack medicines are resorted to and alleged remedies tried that are usually expensive and either worthless or dangerous. The vain little woman goes on studying her glass and losing contentment. Gray hairs and wrinkles come long before their time, her temper loses its sweetness, she gets round shouldered from constantly scrutinizing herself, and at the very time that she should be sweet and amiable and serene she is a screwed up, squint eyed, sour old woman. A toilet mirror is the very worst present that a plain girl could receive.—Chicago Times.

Private to Some Women.

This is one of the occasions when it would be delightful to have private telephonic communication with the ears of all offending women, says a writer in The Outlook. None others are expected to read and apply the following:

Don't wait until you get in front of the ticket seller's window before you get the money ready for your ticket.

Don't take a ticket seller into your confidence, if you are buying a railroad ticket, while you explain to him why you want it and keep a line of people waiting behind you who know where they are going, have their money ready and are only waiting for you to move out of the way to buy their tickets and go about their business.

Don't go a week in advance of the time you want to start and keep a line of people waiting when your business is simply to inquire the price of the ticket and get a time table.

Kind Hearts Beat Pretty Faces.

Beauty is a recognized factor in the general regard. It is said that one of Leigh Hunt's schoolmates was so handsome that, having one day run against an old woman's fruit stall and kicked it over, his good looks thus turned her abuse to admiration.

"Where are you driving to?" she cried. "You great, hulking, good for nothing—beautiful fellow. God bless you."

But those who have the unaccountable art of winning favor, we know not why, are not necessarily beautiful.

Who cannot name some plain featured woman of his acquaintance who is adored by her family and sought by friends and acquaintances, but who would make a very insignificant appearance in a gorgeous assembly or in after dinner conversation?

Look to Your Thimble.

A case of blood poisoning at one of the Berlin hospitals was discovered to be the result of wearing a common metal thimble, with small spots of verdigris on the inside, and a scratched finger. The London Lancet in commenting on the case says: "Steel thimbles are much safer and cost very little. Another variety in common use is enameled within and is, if possible, freer from objection." The caution is added that sewing women should never neglect cuts or scratches on the hand as long as dyes are used in the manufacture of cloth.

Women Railroad Workers.

Women work on the railroads and in the mines near Dresden for about 25 cents a day. They are said to do grading and tunneling with as much satisfaction to their employers as if they were men. They get less wages than the men.—Philadelphia Public Ledger.

Girls Out After Dark.

The amount of control to be exercised by parents over children, and especially over daughters, is always a most delicate question, and sound discretion, guided by circumstances, should be the rule of parental action. Duty and prudence alike require that the whereabouts and companionship of children at all times should be known to their parents, and in particular should this be the case after dark, when in any corner of a great city may lurk some hidden danger to the morals of youth. No girl should form street acquaintances, and the parents who give their children opportunities for such associations are likely to rue their negligence or complacency.—New York Press.

Fresh ground coffee sprinkled on a shovel of hot coals makes an agreeable disinfectant. Vinegar boiled with myrrh sprinkled on the floor and furniture of a sick-room is an excellent deodorizer.

Handsome parlor vases are usually filled with some such ingredient as sand to weight them and prevent the light porcelain from being brushed off the mantelpiece.

Famous Old Maids.

Look at the list of famous old maids—Elizabeth of England, one of the most illustrious of modern sovereigns. Maria Edgeworth was an old maid. It was this woman's writings that first suggested the thought of writing similarly to Sir Walter Scott. Jane Porter lived and died an old maid. The children of her busy brain were "Thaddeus of Warsaw" and the "Scottish Chiefs," which have moved the hearts of millions with excitement and tears. Joanna Baillie, poet and play writer, was "one of them." Florence Nightingale, most gracious lady, heroine of Invermann and Balaklava hospitals, has to the present written "Miss" before her name.

Woman In Legislation.

Just as it is true that women cashiers and bookkeepers do not abscond with their employers' cash, so will it be in the matter of legislation. They will be so sure they are right, so terribly in earnest, that lobbyists will not appeal to them successfully. When all else fails, a woman's love of self sacrifice and approbation will help her. She will see the full value of the bribe, but she will also see how much praise she will win by refusing to take it and then telling her friends and constituents all about it.—New York Dispatch.

Women Silver Miners.

Two women of Baker county, Or., own silver mines and are running them in person. They do not actually handle shovels and work the dirt, but they superintend the working of their property, and while they admit the business has rough sides for a woman they are making money and propose to keep on.

A Prison Angel.

Miss Wrede consecrated herself to prison work in Finland 12 years ago. From that time she has patiently, with unostentatious heroism, visited at least once every year all the prisons and every prisoner in each prison in Finland. She enters the prison in the early morning and leaves it late in the day, and every day of the year finds her steadily pursuing the same ministry. Many of the most hardened criminals have been brought to newness of life by God through her. That explains the power of her testimony at the prisons congress, where she and her work were known.

The chimney of a lamp is less liable to break if never touched with water. A few drops of alcohol or even paraffin oil will remove the dim, smoky effect and make the chimney bright when it is polished with soft flannel or chamol skin.

There are between 300 and 400 women apothecaries in the United States, and, be it said to their credit, they are rarely charged with making mistakes, and never with permitting winking at their soda fountains.

History as an Amusement.

The following hints tell how a party of young folks may spend an evening both pleasantly and profitably:

Select some epoch in the history of our country. Study not only the events and prominent men of that time, but also the customs, manners, style of dress and home life of the people.

If, as is often the case in country schools, each child wants to take part in the entertainment, all can be allowed to dress in costume, and even the youngest can learn a few facts and answer a question or two, for it will be necessary to have a preparatory drill, which should be very thorough, bringing out all the information the children can obtain or the teacher can impart. The time spent in such preparation will be well employed, which cannot always be said when time is taken from the regular lessons to prepare for a school exhibition.

The stage can represent a room or hall of the olden time, and when the important night arrives all the young actors will appear dressed in the fashion of the people who figure in the events they will discuss. The famous men and women of that day will of course be personated, and it will likewise always be possible to have a great variety of characters represented, ordinary people as well as those already known to fame.

First on the programme is a history match, which, besides displaying the knowledge the young people have gained, can be made as amusing as a spelling match and very interesting to everybody present.

Then follow tableaux representing historical or imaginary scenes of the time, interspersed with readings, declamations and old songs.—New York Recorder.